



SMALLBURGH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year 1937.

SECTION A.

Area of District in acres	...	...	...	70,017
Population (1931 Census)	...	...	...	15,690
Population (1937, estimated)	...	...	...	15,860
Structurally separate dwellings (1931 Census)—	Occupied			4,376
	Unoccupied			433
Rateable Value, £48,684.				
Penny Rate (estimated), £222 10s. 0d.				

LIVE BIRTHS	Legitimate	TOTAL. 211	M. 102	F. 109
	Illegitimate	14	6	8
	Total	225	108	117

BIRTH RATE per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 13.56.

STILL BIRTHS	Legitimate	9	7	2
	Illegitimate	—	—	—
	Total	9	7	2

STILLBIRTH RATE per 1,000 total births, 38.46.

DEATHS	209	97	112
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DEATH RATE per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 13.18.

Deaths from PUERPERAL CAUSES :—Nil.

Deaths of INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE :—

	Legitimate	15	7	8
	Illegitimate	—	—	—
	Total	15	7	8

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS under 1 year of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	...	...	...	66.66
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	...	...	...	71.09

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	26
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	—
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	2

CAUSES OF DEATH.	TOTAL	M.	F.
Measles ...	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—
Influenza ...	8	1	7
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	—	—	—
Cerebrospinal Fever ...	—	—	—
Respiratory Tuberculosis ...	5	2	3
Other Tuberculosis ...	2	1	1
Syphilis ...	—	—	—
G.P.I. Tabes, etc. ...	1	1	—
Cancer ...	26	11	15
Diabetes ...	5	—	5
Cerebral Haemorrhage ...	16	4	12
Heart Disease ...	46	18	28
Aneurysm ...	—	—	—
Other Circulatory Disease ...	13	7	6
Bronchitis ...	11	6	5
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	7	3	4
Other Respiratory Disease ...	3	2	1
Peptic Ulcer ...	—	—	—
Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ...	2	1	1
Appendicitis ...	1	1	—
Cirrhosis of Liver ...	—	—	—
Other Liver Disease ...	3	1	2
Other Digestive Disease ...	6	4	2
Nephritis ...	2	1	1
Puerperal Sepsis ...	—	—	—
Other Puerperal Disease ...	—	—	—
Congenital Debility, Prematurity ...	9	4	5
Senility ...	16	10	6
Suicide ...	—	—	—
Other Violence ...	4	3	1
Other defined diseases ...	20	14	6
Ill-defined or not known ...	3	2	1

S.D. 55.

Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Death-rates, and Case-rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1937.

England and Wales, London, 125 Great Towns and 148 Smaller Towns.

(Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns).

	England and Wales	125 County Boro's. and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Administrative County.
Rates per 1,000 Population.				
BIRTHS—				
Live ...	14.9	14.9	15.3	13.3
Still ...	0.60	0.67	0.64	0.54
DEATHS—				
All Causes ...	12.4	12.5	11.9	12.3
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ...	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
Small-pox ...	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.01
Scarlet Fever ...	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Whooping Cough ...	0.04	0.04	0.03	0.06
Diphtheria ...	0.07	0.08	0.05	0.05
Influenza ...	0.45	0.39	0.42	0.38
Violence ...	0.54	0.45	0.42	0.51
NOTIFICATIONS—				
Small-pox ...	0.00	—	0.00	—
Scarlet Fever ...	2.33	2.56	2.42	2.09
Diphtheria ...	1.49	1.81	1.38	1.93
Enteric Fever ...	0.05	0.06	0.04	0.05
Erysipelas ...	0.37	0.43	0.34	0.44
Pneumonia ...	1.36	1.58	1.20	1.18
Rates per 1,000 Live Births.				
Deaths under 1 year of age ...	58	62	55	60
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age ...	5.8	7.9	3.2	12.0
MATERNAL MORTALITY—				
Puerperal Sepsis ...	0.97	Not avail-able		
Others ...	2.26			
Total ...	3.23			
Rates per 1,000 Total Births (i.e. Live and Still).				
MATERNAL MORTALITY—				
Puerperal Sepsis ...	0.94	Not avail-able		
Others ...	2.17			
Total ...	3.11			
NOTIFICATIONS—				
Puerperal Fever ...	13.93	17.59	11.52	4.15
Puerperal Pyrexia ...				14.34

SECTION B.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE DISTRICT.

D. G. SHIELDS, B.A., M.B., B.Ch., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.
A. L. TAUNTON; C.R.S.I., SANITARY INSPECTOR

LABORATORY FACILITIES. Norfolk County Laboratory.

AMBULANCE SERVICES are obtained from the British Red Cross Society at Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, North Walsham, and Great Yarmouth Hospital.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

- (a) District Nurses of Norfolk Nursing Federation.
- (b) Private hire in infectious diseases.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES. None in District.

HOSPITALS. Norfolk and Norwich, Jenny Lind (children), Great Yarmouth and North Walsham Hospitals, and Coltishall Nursing Home all take cases from the area. It is expected that the County Isolation Hospital will be opened in June, 1938, and in the meanwhile the arrangement continues whereby infectious cases are sent to the Norwich City Infectious Disease Hospital when circumstances make this desirable.

SECTION C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. WATER SUPPLIES.

- (1) A total of 42 samples of water intended to be used for domestic supplies were submitted to the Public Analyst during the past year. Thirty-six of these samples were taken from newly constructed wells and the remainder were taken from old wells where the water was under suspicion. Of these samples nine were found to be unsatisfactory and action was taken to prevent these supplies being used.

In general the supplies have been plentiful during the year and the Council have received no complaints of shortage.

Stalham. In this parish boring has commenced for the public water supply scheme approved by the Minister of Health and good progress is reported; it is anticipated that tests for quality and quantity will be carried out in the early spring of 1938.

(II) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

A complaint was received that a sewer in the Parish of Ludham was causing pollution to an adjoining well. The sewer was inspected and tests carried out, and so far as could be ascertained the sewer was watertight and in good condition, having been relaid by the County Council on behalf of the Local Authority barely three years ago. Having regard to the situation of the well and the possibility of pollution, the Local Authority decided to make a small grant to the person concerned to enable a new well to be sunk in a more suitable position.

The drains and sewers in the Parish of Stalham are still more or less unsatisfactory and give rise to complaint. Special attention is given to the cleansing of these drains and sewers, and this work is carried out at regular intervals.

2. RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Samples of water taken from the River Thurne have been analysed and the results show that pollution is taking place. The County Council is calling a Conference of all persons concerned to ascertain what steps may be taken to prevent further pollution. No steps have been taken at present to provide refuse-bins or dumping-places, as difficulty would be experienced in collecting the refuse for disposal. It was found that the majority of the proposed dumping-places were unapproachable by vehicles or hand carts, and the only possible means of collection would be by boat.

There have been no complaints as to pollution of any other river or broad in this area.

3. CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

- (i) In this area each dwelling-house is required to have its own closet accommodation, and usually this consists of (a) an earth closet with sanitary pail and cement floor or (b) an approved type of chemical closet.

During the year four vault type closets were converted to pail closets and in 21 cases new cement floors were laid to existing earth closets. As there are no water carriage systems under the control of the Local Authority in this area, the conversion of earth closets to water closets is very infrequent and during the past year only two conversions have been made.

Many of the new dwellings erected are provided with septic tank and filter-bed drainage systems and in these cases water closets are installed.

- (ii) The Local Authority is now taking the necessary steps to provide scavenging schemes for Parishes of Horning and Hoveton, and in the case of Hoveton tenders are being invited for the necessary vehicles.

The public scavenging scheme for the Parish of Stalham is working well and has proved a boon to the Parish.

Difficulty has been experienced in proceeding with scavenging schemes for certain of the coastal parishes; while there appears to be a need for a scheme in the holiday season, during the remainder of the year, when a large percentage of the dwellings is unoccupied, the need is not so acute.

(iii) **SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.**

The Sanitary Inspector has reported during his routine inspection of the area that very few dwellings have been found to be fitted with sinks or means of drainage for waste water, and very many housewives regret that these necessary sanitary requirements are not available.

(iv) **SMOKE ABATEMENT.**

One complaint of smoke nuisance at Horning caused by fish frying was received and this was dealt with and the nuisance abated.

4. SCHOOLS.

The inspection of schools has been regularly carried out and the sanitary accommodation has been found to be sufficient and maintained in good order. I do feel, however, that suitable toilet paper should be supplied, and the attention of the Education Authority has been drawn to this matter. The number of inspections was 32.

SECTION D. HOUSING.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	821
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	292
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations	...	...	...	315
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	189
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	8
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	63

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	38
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3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

(a) PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 17, 18 and 23 OF THE HOUSING ACT 1930.

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	1
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit by the owners after service of formal notices	...	...	...	Nil

(b) PROCEEDINGS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices	...	...	Nil

(c) PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 19 and 21 OF THE HOUSING ACT 1930.

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	9
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	18

(d) **PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 20 OF THE HOUSING ACT 1930.**

(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ...	...	...	Nil
(2)	Number determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ...	...	...	Nil

SECTION E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) **MILK SUPPLY.**

The total number of Cowkeepers, Dairymen and Retailers is 164.

Inspections of Cowkeepers	...	...	...	229
Inspections of Dairymen	...	...	...	171
Inspections of Retailers	...	...	...	98

The Sanitary Inspector reports that no complaints have been received during the year respecting the quality or cleanliness of milk produced in this district, and the producers appear to be doing their utmost to maintain a high standard.

A total of 148 samples was taken in respect of Accredited Milk, and I am pleased to report that in no case was it necessary to take away a producers licence.

Thirty-four persons are now licensed to produce Accredited Milk.

(b) **MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.**

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

The number of slaughterhouses is as follows :

Registered	...	...	...	...	...	19	26	209
Licensed	...	...	...	...	...	7		

The inspections carried out by myself and the Sanitary Inspector totalled 209, and in five cases it was necessary to give instructions for the premises to be cleansed and whitened. Generally the premises are in good structural order and suitable for the purpose.

The number of licensed slaughtermen is now 45.

CONDEMNED MEAT.

Amount of Meat condemned :

Beasts (including calves)	...	...	...	...	1½
Sheep	...	...	...	...	Nil

and approximately 90 lbs. of beef and 12 lbs. of pork.

Number of premises with refrigerating plant for storing Meat ... 10

Difficulty is experienced in the inspection of meat as in practically all cases, slaughtering is carried out on the same day and at the same time.

The Sanitary Inspector reports that the slaughtermen have given him great assistance.

Owing to the outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease many butchers in Norwich and District were unable to obtain meat from their usual sources, and found it necessary to obtain their beasts and slaughter them in this area. The Sanitary Inspector reported that a large amount of his time was taken up with the inspection of these extra carcasses.

KNACKERS' YARDS.

Nil.

(c) **ADULTERATION OF FOODS (INSPECTION AND ANALYSIS).**

The duties in connection with this are carried out by the Norfolk County Council.

(d) **CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.**

This is carried out by the Norfolk County Council.

UNHEALTHY AREAS.

There are no unhealthy areas in the District.

BYE-LAWS RELATING TO HOUSES.

The Council have the following bye-laws in force :

Tents, Vans and Sheds approved 9th October, 1936.

New Buildings and Certain Matters in connection with Existing Buildings approved 9th October, 1936.

Section 27, comprised in Part II of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, is in force in certain parishes.

SANITARY INSPECTION, ETC.

This is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector, and each month reports are submitted to myself and the Local Authority. It has been found on inspection, that the standard of sanitary accommodation is much higher than in former years, and the average person appreciates the changed conditions. In this respect it is noticeable that the majority of licensed houses have had their sanitary accommodation improved, and in addition to this, the interiors of these premises have been modernised.

NUISANCES.

The number of nuisances reported to the Medical Officer of Health or Sanitary Inspector was 53, and these were as follows :

Broken or blocked drains ...	...	...	...	8
Cesspools requiring cleansing	...	...	...	4
Dampness in (a) External walls	...	...	...	10
(b) Internal walls	...	...	...	3
Defective gutters and down spouts	...	...	...	7
„ thatched roofs	...	...	...	4
„ tiled roofs	...	...	...	5
Overcrowding	...	...	...	7
Urinal blocked	...	...	...	1
Windows in poor state of repair or not made to open	...	...	...	4

In each case the nuisances were investigated and appropriate action taken.

OVERCROWDING.

Two further cases of overcrowding were found during the year and reported to the Local Authority. The number of cases of overcrowding now outstanding is 48, and cottages are now in course of erection to abate this overcrowding.

Difficulty has been experienced in abating certain cases of overcrowding, as the families were unwilling to be rehoused in an adjoining Parish, where land was available for immediate rehousing purposes.

HOUSING RETURN FOR THE YEAR.

The number of new dwelling-houses erected during the year with State assistance under the Housing Acts, is as follows :

(a) By the Local Authority				
Cottages.				
Five Bedroom	...	...	...	10
Four Bedroom	...	...	...	7
Three Bedroom	...	...	...	6
Two Bedroom	...	...	...	7
Bungalows	...	...	...	2
(b) By private enterprise	...	...	...	Nil

PARISHES IN WHICH NEW HOUSES HAVE BEEN ERECTED DURING 1937.

(a) By the Local Authority		(b) By other bodies or persons	
Parish	Number	Parish	Number
Barton Turf	6	Ashmanhaugh	1
Happisburgh	4	Bacton	13
Honing	4	Bradfield	1
Lessingham	2	Catfield	1
Paston (Knapton)	2	Eccles	10
Sloley	2	Happisburgh	15
Sutton	6	Hickling	5
Worstead	6	Horning	3
		Horsey	1
		Irstead	1
		Ludham	3
		Palling	1
		Paston	1
		Potter Heigham	1
		Stalham	4
		Swafeld	1
		Tunstead	1

HOUSING (RURAL WORKERS) ACT, 1926.

Number of cottages reconstructed during the year ...	...	...	5
Total number of cottages reconstructed to date	...	...	91

PARISHES WHERE COTTAGES HAVE BEEN RECONSTRUCTED UNDER THIS ACT.

Neatishead	...	1	Tunstead	...	1
Sloley	...	1	Witton	...	1
Sutton	...	1			

APPLICATIONS RECEIVED UNDER THIS ACT.

Parish	Number of Houses	Purpose of Application	Decision of the District Council
Scottow	1	Grant for reconditioning	Grant of £90 offered
Sloley	1	do.	Grant of £90 offered
Sloley	2	do.	Grant of £60 offered
Tunstead	1	do.	Grant of £90 offered
Witton	1	To convert two cottages into one	Grant of £90 offered

The Sanitary Inspector is of the opinion that there are many cottages that could be improved and reconstructed with assistance under the Housing (Rural Workers) Act and representations have been made to the owners of certain cottages with a view to reconstruction. The Local Authority has agreed to consider any application made under this Act, and I trust that cottage owners will come forward and make applications for assistance.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Two complaints were received from H.M. Inspector of Factories with regard to cleanliness and two complaints with regard to insufficient closet accommodation. Suitable action was taken by the Sanitary Inspector and the result reported to the Local Authority.

In one case where the Lady Inspector of Factories reported that certain premises had no urinal, on inspection by the Sanitary Inspector it was found that a urinal for male workers was provided, and the owner of the premises stated that he had not cared to show this to the lady Inspector.

Seventy-nine inspections of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces were carried out by myself and the Sanitary Inspector during the past year and particular notice was taken of sanitary accommodation, ventilation and mess-rooms. Suggestions were made for minor improvements and in many cases these were acted upon.

INSPECTIONS OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories	17	Nil	Nil
Workshops	51	Nil	Nil
Workplaces	11	Nil	Nil
	<hr/> 79	<hr/> Nil	<hr/> Nil

DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

	Found	Remedied
Want of cleanliness	5	5
Insufficient closet accommodation	2	2

BAKEHOUSES.

The number of bakehouses in the area is nine and these are all of brick and tile construction, and in fair condition.

There are no underground or semi-underground bakeries.

One complaint was received from H.M. Inspector of Factories with reference to whitening of one bakehouse and in this case the occupier was seen and the bakehouse cleaned, whitened and the floors improved. Forty-nine inspections have been made during the year.

DISINFECTION.

This is carried out by spraying and formaldehyde lamps, and in all cases has been satisfactory.

Disinfections are as follows :

Following cases of fever	...	...	...	40 rooms
After death from cancer	...	...	...	8 rooms
After other deaths	...	...	...	3 rooms
Verminous rooms	...	...	...	1 room

In certain cases a small charge is made to cover expenses.

BED BUGS.

Apparently the salt air of Norfolk acts as a check to these visitors and I am pleased to state that no case of infestation by Bed Bug has been reported during the past year.

Should any case be reported the premises would be fumigated by high power spray of formalin.

TENTS AND VANS.

During the past twelve months a total of 15 families of van-dwellers have been reported in the district, and in twelve of these cases inspection was made and particulars noted of the families. No case of infectious disease has been notified and no nuisance has been caused by these van-dwellers.

SECTION F.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Sixteen cases of infectious disease (other than tuberculosis) were notified during 1937. They were :—

	Total	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever ...	8	Nil	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	2	"	"
Pneumonia ...	3	"	"
Erysipelas ...	3	"	"

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION SCHEME.

It is proposed to institute in 1938 a scheme whereby free immunisation against diphtheria will be offered to all children of pre-school age and to persons of any age who may desire it and who are not able to pay the cost. Although the actual immunisation will be carried out by the private practitioner of the individual concerned, the whole scheme will be under the control of the Council's Medical Officer. Printed notices giving details of the scheme will shortly be published and displayed in schools and public places.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases during 1937.						Deaths during 1937.					
Aged		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Totals	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Totals
		Males	Females	Males	Females		Males	Females	Males	Females	
under 1		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
" 1 to 5		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
" 5 to 15		—	—	3	2	5	—	—	—	—	—
" 15 to 25		—	1	1	1	3	—	—	—	1	1
" 25 to 35		1	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	2
" 35 to 45		—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
" 45 to 55		1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
" 55 to 65		—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2
" over 65		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total		2	1	4	3	10	Total	2	3	1	7

GENERAL.

I find on looking through my records that there are many condemned cottages not yet demolished, and I feel that where possible these cottages should be demolished and the sites cleared; it is found that unoccupied premises very soon become unsightly, are a danger to children, and often become infested with rats.

May I congratulate the Council on its building programme of 124 houses, this number including the 32 mentioned in this Report as completed. When these cottages are available for occupation, there should be very few cases of overcrowding or persons living in unfit houses outstanding, and the total number of dwellings owned by the Local Authority will be 675.

D. G. SHIELDS,
Medical Officer of Health.

A. L. TAUNTON,
Sanitary Inspector.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
SMALLBURGH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

May, 1938.